

ANNEX 17

ESF-17 - ANIMAL/AGRICULTURE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

PRIMARY: Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health (CULPH)

SUPPORT: Clemson University Regulatory and Public Service Programs (RPSP); Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service (CUCES); SC Association of Veterinarians (SCAV); SC Animal Care and Control Association (SCACCA); South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA); Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC); Clemson Experiment Station (CES); Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and Land, Water and Conservation Division; SC Forestry Commission (SCFC); Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing (LLR); SC Farm Bureau Federation

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. An emergency or disaster would adversely affect the multi-billion dollar agricultural, livestock, poultry, plant and crop industries in South Carolina. It could be a disease event, caused either by natural or accidental introduction by acts of agroterrorism, or a natural or technological disaster.
- B. Substantial damage to animal and plant production would have significant and long-lasting negative impacts on the State's economy through disruption of food supply, trade, and tourism. In addition, public health may be affected by animal diseases that affect humans (zoonotic) and some foodborne diseases.
- C. More than 60 percent of households own at least one pet. There are also a significant number of horses in every county.
- D. Many people may be hesitant to evacuate their homes during emergency events or to leave their animals behind due to concerns for the safety of these animals, thus endangering themselves and possibly disrupting the work of first responders in the affected areas. In addition, disruptions of the landscape may lead to substantial numbers of displaced, at-large animals.
- E. Effective preparedness activities, efficient response actions and supportive recovery efforts will help to assure citizen safety, soundness of animal and plant industries and protection of public health.
- F. In addition, these actions capitalize on the benefit of the human-animal bond in the recovery process.

II. PURPOSE

- A. Provide animal and plant emergency management and response throughout South Carolina, before, during, and after disasters.

- B. Provide public information that enables animal owners to develop and carry out individual emergency response plans under most circumstances.
- C. Coordinate back-up support resources to assist animal owners to protect and care for their animals in emergency events.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health (CULPH) the lead agency is responsible for coordination of all ESF-17 administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities to include developing, coordinating, and maintaining the ESF-17 SOP. CULPH is the State animal health regulatory authority responsible for disease prevention and response activities to protect South Carolina's livestock and poultry herds and flocks.
- B. ESF-17 supporting agencies will assist CULPH in the planning and execution of the above.
- C. ESF-17 consists of components responsible for emergency response for the following assets, commodities and systems that describe "animal/agriculture":
 - Animals in disasters including coordinating resources to assist animal owners in disasters
 - Animal-related agricultural assets
 - Issues related to plants, crops and horticulture
 - Issues related to agricultural chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides
 - Issues related to food products from animal sources (includes meat, poultry, and dairy)
- D. Critical ESF-17 functions, include, but are not limited to, the development of the following:
 - 1. Animal and plant health regulatory programs, veterinary medical care, plant health programs, and food safety programs at all levels (local, State, national) to protect animal health, animal and plant industries, and public health.
 - 2. A back-up support service at the local and State level to assist animal owners in protecting and caring for their animals during and after disasters.
 - 3. A public information program to assist agricultural premises to develop and carry out their own individual emergency response plans.

4. Prioritized updates of plant and animal pests/diseases of national and jurisdictional significance.
 5. Plans for prevention and response for outbreaks of highly contagious, zoonotic and economically devastating animal and plant diseases and pests both naturally and accidentally introduced as well as those occurring through intentional introduction by bioterrorism or agroterrorism.
- E. ESF-17 personnel will be trained on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command and integrate those principles into all ESF-17 planning and response operations.
 - F. ESF-17 personnel will be familiar with the National Response Framework and the corresponding FEMA Annex with Federal counterpart concepts, actions and responsibilities. This familiarization will include but not be limited to the structure, organization, functions and responsibilities of the Incident Management Assist Teams (IMAT), Interagency Incident Management Groups (IIMG) and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
 - G. ESF-17 agencies, organizations, and individuals will operate under their respective mandated Federal, State, or organizational regulations and will maintain complete administrative and financial control over their activities.
 - H. ESF-17 agencies will coordinate with other ESFs and appropriate parties as necessary to provide assistance throughout the State in emergency events.
 - I. ESF-17 agencies will develop agreements such as Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) with appropriate groups.
 - J. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is the Point of Contact (POC) for all requests for animal-agricultural emergency response.
 - K. In coordination with and in support of the counties, ESF-17 will assess the situation (both pre- and post-event), and in coordination with local Emergency Management officials, develop strategies to respond to the emergency.
 - L. Animal owners are responsible for the health and safety of their animals, which includes pets, service animals, horses, and livestock, even in emergency situations. Circumstances out of their control may lead to requests for assistance. In many cases the resources needed to assist animal owners do not exist within ESF-17 agencies. In these instances, ESF-17 agencies will coordinate to recruit and implement needed resources such as the following:
 1. Qualified and trained personnel, equipment and vehicles to safely capture, contain and transport animals.

2. Transportation for citizens without vehicles who evacuate with pets and service animals.
 3. List of available “Pet friendly” motels and hotels.
 4. Boarding facilities for household pets.
 5. Locations for temporary emergency animal shelter or stable sites.
 6. Personnel and supplies (including animal feed) for temporary animal shelter or stable sites.
 7. Licensed veterinarians, equipment, and pharmaceuticals to administer disaster veterinary medical care.
 8. Technical equipment such as cameras, computers, printers for use in temporary animal shelters reception centers.
 9. Internet capability and methods or systems to log-in and track animals in shelters and to utilize animal lost and found websites to reunite animals and owners.
- M. ESF-17 will provide limited assistance, if available, to owners of exotic animals in emergencies. Exotic animal owners are urged to maintain full preparation and response capabilities, as specialty facilities for their animals may not be available through regular support channels. In addition, public safety considerations may severely limit disaster support for exotic animal evacuation or temporary housing, especially in the case of dangerous animals.
- N. In the event of a disaster affecting animal research facilities within the State, ESF-17 agencies will provide assistance as needed and as available. Animal research facilities should prepare plans in accordance with Federal Animal Care and Use recommendations for disaster response.
- O. ESF-17 will coordinate with Federal agencies or Federal ESF-11 as needed during the response, either at the SEOC or at a Joint Field Office (JFO).

IV. ESF ACTIONS

- A. Preparedness
1. Support the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) by ensuring ESF personnel are trained on EMAC responsibilities.
 2. Maintain programs and plans to protect State animal and crop industries and to protect public health.

3. Participate in State exercises, at least annually, to validate this Annex and supporting SOP. Conduct ESF-17 exercises when resources are available.
4. Ensure procedures are in place to document costs for any potential reimbursement following an emergency event.
5. Develop plans for the safety of livestock, poultry and companion animals prior to, during and after a natural or man-made event.
6. Maintain inspection and regulatory programs for food processing and storage facilities to maintain a safe and wholesome food supply.
7. Maintain inspection and regulatory programs for agricultural chemical dealers and distributors to monitor products that could be made into explosives or otherwise misused to cause harm.
8. Prepare and distribute informational materials to assist animal owners with the development of their emergency plans.
9. Develop an inventory of resources for back-up support to assist animal owners, when necessary, to protect and care for their animals during and after disasters. These resources may include:
 - Possible locations for temporary emergency animal shelter and stable sites.
 - Volunteers (veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary caretakers, pre-designated animal humane groups) who can assist in emergency events.
 - Qualified animal handlers (such as Large Animal Rescue Teams and Animal Control Officers) who can assist with animal search and rescue, capture and transport.
10. Assist county emergency management with organization and planning related to local resources for animal-agricultural issues. Share current knowledge about resource and training opportunities as available.
11. Communicate with ESF-18 (Donated Goods and Volunteer Services) concerning protocols for goods donated for animal/agriculture response.
12. Provide ESF-17 representation on the Recovery Task Force.

B. Response

1. Coordinate and manage an animal or plant disease outbreak or incident that would affect animal, plant, and/or public health.

2. Continue inspection and regulatory programs for food processing and food product storage facilities to ensure safe and wholesome food supply during the emergency event.
3. Provide consultation and coordinate response for animal, plant and agricultural issues which impact animal, plant, or public health (such as disease outbreak; bioterrorist attack; waste and animal carcass removal).
4. Coordinate resources (including veterinary care) to assist animal owners, when necessary, in the protection and care of their animals in emergency events.
5. Assist ESF-15 (Public Information) with the development of public service information to assist the public in locating emergency animal shelter and stable sites as well as for general animal emergency response guidance. This information will be cleared through agency, SCEMD and the Joint Information Center (JIC) before release.
6. Assist ESF-6 (Mass Care) by providing information for evacuating citizens about options and locations of temporary shelter sites and stable sites for their animals.
7. Coordinate resources to capture, transport and contain displaced animals.
8. Coordinate resources to decontaminate animals and animal products as needed to prevent disease and protect public health.
9. Coordinate resources needed for animal carcass disposition following an event causing losses of large numbers of animals.
10. Collect, identify, label, and coordinate disposition of diseased/contaminated plants or plant pests.
11. Coordinate damage assessment information from affected areas.
12. Coordinate with Logistics Support Section regarding temporary storage sites and staging areas for general animal-related supplies, veterinary medical supplies, and agricultural chemicals.
13. Coordinate with ESF-18 (Donated Goods and Volunteer Services) for the organization and distribution of goods donated for animal/agriculture response.
14. Coordinate requests for outside resources which may include veterinary medical assistance teams, pre-designated humane organizations, and other appropriate, qualified responders. Coordinate the integration of these resources into the ongoing state response effort.

15. Identify and provide a Liaison Officer (LOFR) for each EMAC request, to facilitate arrival and onward movement of EMAC support at appropriate staging area.
16. Maintain records of expenditures, resources used and services provided during the event.
17. Coordinate with Federal agencies, other State agencies or ESFs, or personnel as needed.

C. Recovery

1. Coordinate the gradual reduction and demobilization of emergency services and resources used in response to include those for animal rescue, transportation, and care, and temporary emergency animal shelters.
2. Assist ESF-15 (Public Information) with producing and releasing of public service information to assist public with recovery issues pertaining to animals and agriculture-related concerns. Finalize the coordination of damage assessment information and reporting.
3. Finalize coordination of decontamination and disposition of contaminated animals, plants and agricultural products.
4. Assist ESF-18 (Donated Goods and Volunteer Services) with disposition of remaining goods donated for animal/agriculture response.
5. Utilize all available systems in place to reunite owners with their animals, to include organizing and publishing lost and found data and coordinating return to owner, long-term maintenance, placement or disposition of animals that are unclaimed or cannot be returned to their normal habitat.
6. Compile relevant event data for final reports.
7. Assist with recovery efforts in impacted areas, including repopulation of animals or reestablishment of plants into recovered areas.
8. Support priorities identified by the Long-Term Recovery Committee and Recovery Task Force.

D. Mitigation

1. Support and plan for mitigation measures including monitoring and updating mitigation actions in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. Review, evaluate and comment on proposed State Hazard Mitigation Plan amendments, upon initiation and within review.

3. Support requests and directives from the Governor and/or FEMA concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
4. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in agency or State/Federal briefings, situation reports and action plans.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General

1. ESF-17 agencies will identify, train and assign personnel to staff, maintain contact with, and coordinate missions in support of ESF-17 during periods of activation.
2. ESF-17 agencies will train personnel on EMAC procedures to include:
 - a. Identifying agency resources to sustain emergency operations, pre-scripting anticipated needs on specific EMAC messages.
 - b. Pre-identifying and listing agency resources available for interstate and intrastate mutual aid missions.
 - c. Maintaining related information in WebEOC.
3. ESF-17 will support mitigation operations as outlined in Annex-14 (Recovery and Mitigation)

B. Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health

1. Preparedness
 - a. Develop and maintain regulatory programs and plans to protect the health of livestock and poultry. These include animal disease prevention; animal disease surveillance; veterinary diagnostic laboratory testing; animal disease traceability; response actions to control and/or eradicate animal diseases (including zoonotic disease) consistent with legal authority and agency mission.
 - b. Maintain inspection and regulatory programs for meat and poultry processing facilities to maintain a safe and wholesome food supply.
 - c. For emergency events other than livestock-poultry disease outbreaks, recruit and implement resources for statewide response, both within and outside of ESF-17 agencies and organizations.
 - d. Develop operating procedures to implement animal/agriculture emergency response functions of ESF-17.

- e. Develop and deliver training and informational and instructional materials, including disease notification procedures and biosecurity protocols for producers, veterinarians, and potential agricultural responders, as resources are available.
- f. Assist with the preparation and distribution of informational materials to assist animal owners with the development of their emergency plans.
- g. Assist with development of an inventory of resources for back-up support to assist animal owners to protect and care for their animals during and after disasters.
- h. Assist SC County Emergency Management with organization and planning related to local resources for animal-agriculture related issues. Share knowledge about available resources, including training opportunities.
- i. Communicate with ESF-18 (Donated Goods and Volunteer Services) concerning protocols for goods donated for animal/agriculture response.

2. Response

- a. Staff ESF-17 in the SEOC.
- b. Coordinate and manage an animal disease outbreak or incident that would affect animal health and/or public health to include humane euthanasia and disposal of affected animals.
- c. Provide for inspection and assessment of meat and poultry processing facilities to ensure safe and wholesome food supply during the emergency event.
- d. Provide consultation and coordinate response for animal, agricultural issues which impact animal or public health (such as disease outbreak; bioterrorist attack; waste and animal carcass removal).
- e. Assist ESF-15 (Public Information) with development of public service information to assist the public in locating emergency animal shelter and stable sites as well as for general animal emergency response guidance.
- f. Assist ESF-6 (Mass Care) at the SEOC by providing information for evacuating citizens about options and locations of temporary shelter sites for their pets.

- g. Coordinate resources to assist animal owners with the protection and care of their animals during the event
 - h. Coordinate resources to capture, collect and contain displaced animals at-large.
 - i. Coordinate resources to decontaminate animals and animal products as needed to prevent disease and protect public health.
 - j. Coordinate resources needed for animal carcass disposition following an event causing losses of large numbers of animals.
 - k. Assist with submission of damage assessment reports related to animals to authorized individuals/agencies.
 - l. Coordinate with Logistics Support Section regarding temporary storage sites and staging areas for animal/agriculture-related supplies.
 - m. Coordinate with ESF-18 (Donated Goods and Volunteer Services) for the organization and distribution of goods donated for animal-related response.
 - n. If State resources are overwhelmed, coordinate requests for outside resources which may include veterinary medical assistance teams, pre-designated humane organizations, and other appropriate, qualified responders. Coordinate the integration of these resources into the ongoing State response effort.
 - o. Identify and provide a Liaison Officer for each EMAC request, to facilitate arrival and onward movement of EMAC support at appropriate staging area.
3. Recovery
- a. Coordinate the phase-down and demobilization of animal/agriculture services and resources used in response.
 - b. Assist with recovery efforts in impacted areas, including repopulation of animals into recovered areas.
 - c. Support priorities identified by the Long-Term Recovery Committee and Recovery Task Force.
 - d. Assist with the utilization of available systems in place to reunite owners with their animals, to include coordination of the organization and publication of lost and found data and coordinating return to owner, long-term maintenance, placement or

disposition of animals that are unclaimed or cannot be returned to their normal habitat.

B. Clemson University Regulatory and Public Service Programs (RPSP)

1. Preparedness

- a. Coordinate detection of plant pests and diseases through inspections and surveys for species of concern.
- b. Coordinate identification of plant diseases, and pests, and invasive species and toxic substances with state, regional and national laboratories.
- c. Develop and maintain regulatory programs and plans to protect the State's crops and horticultural industries including the response to an exotic plant disease or economically devastating plant pest infestation.
- d. Develop and maintain plans for sampling and analysis of plants/crops to determine if contaminated with chemical or biological agents.
- e. Maintain a program for agrichemical dealers and distributors to monitor fertilizers that could be made into explosives.
- f. Promote security assessments and encourage the agrichemical industry (dealers and distributors) to conduct a security self-assessment.
- g. Develop a training program for county animal and agriculture emergency coordinators and other interested persons, as resources are available.
- h. Participate in meetings at the county-level to provide information to assist County Emergency Management, when requested, with organization and planning related to local resources for plant- and crop-related agricultural issues. Coordinate meetings as necessary of the State Plant Response Team (SPRT).
- i. Release information as appropriate with regard to disease and disaster planning and safety of plants/crops.
- j. Compile and release annually a list of reportable plant disease/pests for South Carolina to include those already present in the United States as well as exotic pest threats from outside US borders.

- k. Encourage participation with commodity origin and/or registration programs that aid in trace forward/back investigations.
 - l. Oversee coordination of plant eradication and disposal teams made up of agency personnel and volunteers to work with emergency management leadership.
2. Response
- a. Provide laboratory services and analysis for plant disease or pest infestations and for agricultural chemicals.
 - b. Coordinate State Plant Response Team (SPRT) agencies to assess and respond to plant needs in the emergency area and compile situation reports.
 - c. Provide consultation and coordinate response for plant and plant and agricultural chemical-related issues which impact plants or public health (such as disease outbreak; bioterrorist attack; waste and animal carcass removal).
 - d. Properly collect, identify, and label diseased/contaminated plants or plant pests.
 - e. Coordinate, with other agencies as needed, for the removal and proper disposal of contaminated plants, soil, and plant-related agricultural products.
 - f. Coordinate with SEOC Logistics Support Section regarding storage sites and staging areas for agricultural chemicals.
 - g. Organize and manage plant-related response donations in coordination with ESF-18 (Donated Goods and Volunteer Services).
 - h. Coordinate plant pest and disease containment, eradication or crop destruction activities.
 - i. Assist with development of public service information which will be cleared through agency and SCEMD Public Information Officers (PIO) before release.
3. Recovery
- a. Coordinate phase-down of plant emergency services.

- b. Continue to coordinate plant disease/pest diagnosis, control, containment, eradication or removal and reestablishment of plants/crops.
- c. Continue to coordinate the removal and proper disposal of contaminated plants, soil, and plant-related agricultural products.
- d. Monitor and provide advice regarding long-term maintenance of impacted areas to include the development of environmental recovery plans in impacted areas and the reestablishment of plants into recovered areas.

C. Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service (CUCES)

1. Preparedness

- a. Compile an alerting list of possible CUCES responders.
- b. Develop and deliver training for animal-agricultural stakeholders as resources are available.
- c. Coordinate with, participate in and provide information to assist county emergency management with organization and planning related to local resources for animal-agricultural issues such as County Animal/Agriculture Response Teams (CART).
- d. Develop and maintain informational materials for disaster planning and safety for animals and plants/crops through news releases, brochures, websites or other means.

2. Response

- a. Assist with County-level animal-agricultural damage assessment as available. This may include participation in assessment teams as well as submission of formal reports to authorized individuals/agencies.
- b. Assist with livestock/poultry containment, surveillance, disease eradication and relocation efforts, as available.
- c. Assist with response issues related to plants/crops/agricultural chemicals, as available.

3. Recovery

- a. Continue with animal-agricultural damage assessment activities as needed and as available.

- b. Assist with recovery issues related to livestock/poultry and plants/crops.

D. South Carolina Association of Veterinarians

1. Preparedness

- a. Assist with development of a State-level plan to assist citizens to evacuate with their household pets and service animals.
- b. Provide Subject Matter Expertise (SME) to veterinary clients about emergency preparedness issues for animals.
- c. Assist with the preparation and distribution of informational materials to assist animal owners with the development of their own emergency plans. These materials include the importance of owners keeping pet medical records in “ready-kits.”
- d. Assist with development and delivery of instructional/educational materials to veterinary association members to assist them in participation with local animal emergency programs.
- e. Develop and maintain a listing of interested volunteers (veterinarians and veterinary technicians) who may assist at the local or State-level in planning, response and recovery activities for animal care in emergency events.
- f. Assist with development of plans for the safety of animals prior to, during and after a natural or man-made event.
- g. Develop plans to respond to an outbreak of a highly contagious animal/zoonotic disease.
- h. Assist with development of plans to provide for the safety of pharmaceuticals administered to animals during emergency events.

2. Response

- a. Implement plans to respond to an outbreak of a highly contagious animal/zoonotic disease.
- b. Provide consultation and subject matter expertise in emergency issues related to animal health, treatment of animal diseases, and zoonotic disease.
- c. When requested, assist with deployment of pre-designated volunteers (veterinarians and veterinary technicians) to assist in providing animal care during the event.

- d. Coordinate requests for veterinary medical assistance and assist with the assignment of veterinary personnel to affected areas.
 - e. Provide disaster veterinary medical care for affected animals during the event.
 - f. Maintain the security and safety of pharmaceuticals administered to animals during the event.
 - g. Provide temporary shelter sites in veterinary boarding facilities, if and when these are available during the event.
 - h. Assist with guidance or staffing at temporary emergency animal shelters, if available.
 - i. Assess the needs for veterinary medical care based on available veterinary personnel. Alert ESF-17 personnel if it appears that veterinary resources may become overwhelmed.
 - j. Assess and report damage to veterinary businesses.
3. Recovery
- a. Assist with the phase-down and demobilization of resources used in response.
 - b. Assist with the use of all available systems in place to reunite owners with their animals.
 - c. Assist with the placement or disposition of unclaimed, displaced animals.
 - d. Assist with the disposition of remaining goods donated for animal-related response.
 - e. Assist with seeking support to aid recovery efforts for veterinary businesses in impacted areas.

E. South Carolina Animal Care and Control Association

1. Preparedness
- a. Assist with the preparation and distribution of informational materials to assist animal owners with the development of their own emergency plans to include suggestions for pet “ready-kits” for owners as well as a list of Pet-Friendly Hotels and Motels in South Carolina.
 - b. Assist with planning for animal emergency response, as available.

- c. Assist with development of a state level plan to assist citizens to evacuate with their household pets and service animals.
- d. Assist with the development of an inventory of statewide resources for back-up support to assist animal owners, when necessary, to protect and care for their animals during and after disasters.

2. Response

- a. Assist, as available, with emergency response measures for animals. Measures may include animal rescue/capture and containment, transportation, and assistance (such as guidance, staffing, assisting with provision of supplies) at temporary animal shelters.
- b. Assist with development of public service information which will be cleared through agency and SCEMD Public Information Officers (PIO) before release.

3. Recovery

- a. Assist with the utilization of available systems in place to reunite owners with their animals, to include coordination of the organization and publication of lost and found data and coordinating return to owner, long-term maintenance, placement or disposition of animals that are unclaimed or cannot be returned to their normal habitat.
- b. Assist with the phase-down and demobilization of resources used in response.

F. SC Department of Agriculture (SCDA)

1. Preparedness

- a. Maintain inspection and regulation programs for agricultural commodities. These include programs for food production and distribution facilities.
- b. Develop plans for the protection of animal health to include the safety of feeds manufactured for and distributed to livestock, poultry and companion animals. These plans include laboratory analysis for forage crops, hay, feeds, and pet food.
- c. Encourage participation with commodity origin and/or registration programs that aid in trace forward/back investigations.

- d. Prepare and distribute informational materials to assist horse owners with development of their emergency plans.
- e. Assist with planning at the local and state level with planning for emergency response issues for horses, as available.
- f. Develop and maintain an inventory of resources to assist horse owners to protect and care for their horses during and after disasters.
- g. Coordinate with ESF-18 (Donated Goods and Volunteer Services) concerning protocols for goods (such as feed and hay) donated for equine emergency response assistance.

2. Response

- a. Continue inspection and regulation programs for agricultural commodities during the emergency event. This includes providing limited laboratory services for toxic substance incidents.
- b. Assist with coordination of requests for resources to assist horse owners with needs for emergency transportation, stabling, and sources for procurement of hay and feed during the event.
- c. Assist with development of public service information which will be cleared through agency and SCEMD Public Information Officers (PIO) before release.

3. Recovery

- a. Assist with recovery efforts for agricultural businesses in affected areas.
- b. Assist with recovery efforts for horse owners.
- c. Assist ESF-18 (Donated Goods and Volunteer Services) with disposition of remaining goods donated during the event to assist horses.
- d. Assist with use of all available systems in place (including lost and found websites, etc.) to reunite horse owners with their animals. Assist, as available, with the placement and disposition of unclaimed horses.

G. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

1. Response and Recovery

- a. Provide consultation and coordinate response on animal-agriculture issues which impact public health (disease outbreak, bio-terrorist attack, and waste and carcass disposal).
- b. Assist with coordination of pertinent public service information to be released through SCEMD.
- c. If needed, assist the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) with the temporary licensing of veterinarians and veterinary technicians invited to assist in a declared disaster response.
- d. DHEC Divisions have responsibilities with animal emergencies as follows:
 - (1) Office of Public Health Preparedness
 - (a) Provide information regarding public health related to animal, plant and food issues.
 - (b) Coordinate DHEC animal emergency response activities.
 - (2) Environmental Quality Control
 - (a) Provide dairy product and producer support, and sampling.
 - (b) Provide food protection activities.
 - (c) Provide agricultural waste and carcass disposal support.
 - (3) Disease Control: Provide epidemiology and public health support.

H. Clemson Experiment Station (CES)

1. Preparedness

- a. Provide technical expertise and information about plant disease and pest organisms to appropriate parties.

- b. Assess the effects of these diseases and organisms upon biological systems and predict their potential for adverse economic and environmental impacts on SC agriculture.

- 2. Response and Recovery

- a. Provide technical expertise and information to Clemson agencies and others, as needed, for the development of fact sheets and action plans to release to appropriate audiences in an event affecting agriculture.
- b. Assist in determining long-term impacts of a catastrophic agricultural incident.

- I. Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- 1. Wildlife and Fresh Water Fisheries Division

- a. Preparedness

Develop plans to respond to the outbreak of a highly contagious animal/zoonotic disease which includes or affects native or free-ranging wildlife species.

- b. Response and Recovery

- (1) Provide native or free-ranging wildlife species support within agency policy and statutory guidelines.
- (2) Consult and coordinate with appropriate agencies regarding response actions involving native or free-ranging wildlife species. Assist with resources, including personnel, transportation and equipment, if available.
- (3) Provide limited assistance, if available, to coordinate zoo and exotic animal situations.
- (4) Assist with development of public service information which will be cleared through agency and SCEMD Public Information Officers (PIOs) before release.

- 2. Land, Water and Conservation Division

- a. Preparedness

Develop plans to prevent and control aquatic invasive species problems in public waters.

b. Response and Recovery

- (1) Provide consultation, subject matter expertise and assistance, as available, on relevant issues.
- (2) Implement plans to restore aquatic habitats impacted by invasive species.

J. South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC)

1. Preparedness

- a. Coordinate with Clemson Extension in providing first detector training for the forestry industry.
- b. Prepare forest disaster plans to address the salvage, harvesting, and marketing of forest products damaged by pests or diseases.
- c. Develop field detection plots or other field methods to detect disease and/or pest threats to the State's forests.
- d. Identify and provide lists of volunteers from private organizations to be trained as first responders.
- e. Assist RPSP in the development of lists of forestry diseases and pests of national and jurisdictional significance.
- f. Develop public service announcements for forestry disaster planning and safety.

2. Response and Recovery

- a. Provide consultation on forestry issues as needed.
- b. Survey forest disaster areas to delineate heavy, medium, and light damage, salvage volume, anticipated logging conditions, market potential, and provide Situation Reports to SCEMD.
- c. Provide coordination and planning for the systematic salvage of all forest products damaged by disease and pests or other disaster.
- d. Compile data on losses, cost of containment including volunteer time and donated use of equipment and supplies and prepare a summary report.
- e. In concert with RPSP and SCEMD, make declaration of containment of forest diseases and pests after the emergency situation is contained.

- f. Provide reports of activities and assessments to CULPH and RPSP upon request.
- K. Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (LLR), Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing.
 - Assist, only as authorized by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and in accordance with the provisions of the Veterinary Practice Act, with the temporary licensing of veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are invited to assist in a declared in disaster response.
- L. SC Farm Bureau Federation
 - 1. Coordinate with County Emergency Management Division Directors to participate and provide information, volunteers and equipment, where available, for assistance at the local level such as for County Animal/Agriculture Response Teams (CART).
 - 2. Response and Recovery. Provide volunteers and equipment, as available, to assist with damage assessment, response, and recovery missions at the County, regional and State levels.

VI. FEDERAL INTERFACE and FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

- A. This Annex has no direct counterpart in the National Response Framework (NRF). State ESF-17 most closely aligns with Federal ESF-11.
- B. USDA would be the lead in some agricultural events such as foreign animal disease response within the State. In other events it may provide support.
- C. Other related Federal ESFs include:
 - 1. Federal ESF-3 (Public Works and Engineering). Carcass Removal.
 - 2. Federal ESF-8 (Public Health and Medical Services). Related agencies under DHHS include the following:
 - a. FDA is involved in food safety and security and is the lead in animal feed production/ safety.
 - b. DHHS is involved in providing for veterinary medical care, including development, training and deployment of National Veterinary Response Teams (NVRT), and the safe production of veterinary care products.
 - c. If Federal assets are needed in a zoonotic disease event, Federal ESF-8 would coordinate with Federal ESF-11 for the animal disease response component.

3. Federal ESF-10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials Response). Hazardous agents and contaminated agriculture.
4. Federal ESF-11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources) - USDA is the Federal Coordinator. APHIS is delegated to represent ESF-11 to coordinate and direct USDA's response, and coordinates with all other Fed ESF-11 support agencies.
 - a. Food Safety and Security. Federal authority is mainly through Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) with Veterinary Services (VS) and Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) providing support.
 - b. Animal and Plant Diseases
 - (1) Federal authority for foreign/emergency animal diseases is through USDA VS. (PPQ) has federal authority for foreign/emerging plant diseases or pests; and Wildlife Services (WS) for management of wildlife issues.
 - (2) Besides support during animal diseases, USDA may also assist during natural or man-made events that threaten or involve animal health, as well as for evacuation and sheltering plans for pets.
5. Federal ESF-14 (Long-Term Community Recovery).
 - a. Recovery through emergency loans, grants, etc. (USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD)).
 - b. Emergency disaster assistance programs, when available, may provide emergency relief to agricultural producers.
- D. Support may be available from Federal ESF representatives in the JFO or from other FEMA groups related to the FEMA Region IV RRCC (Atlanta) and its support.
- E. APHIS provides a full-time ESF-11 Coordinator to serve the FEMA Region IV RRCC. VS, PPQ, and other Fed ESF-11 support agencies provide backup and staffing for JFOs, etc.
- F. USDA/Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Federal ESF-17 may request USDA/NRCS assistance if an incident would result in destruction of plant natural resources, reduced productivity or endangerment of water pollution. NRCS, along with local conservation districts, will develop recovery plans for agriculture commodity areas and natural resource areas.

- G. USDA Forest Service (USFS). The USDA/NFS may be asked for assistance in the event that an incident would negatively impact the plant health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands.